

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

24 Mar 76  
1745

3/24/76

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

**BC652**

FROM BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

11652:  
TAGS:  
JECT:

N.A.  
PINT, SOPN, AR  
JUNTA's RELATIONS WITH LOCAL AND FOREIGN MEDIA

CTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

NFO:

USIA WASHDC

**DECONTROL**

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify ☐ In Part ☒ In Full **Decontrol**

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

BUENOS AIRES 1951

Ref.: Buenos Aires 1928

1.- The Junta's first post-coup contacts with local and foreign media have taken place and the rules of the game are now known to all. This morning editors of local newspapers and magazines were called to Military Headquarters and presented with a code of "principles and procedures to which the mass communications media should strictly adhere." These principles included "defense of the family institution; strict respect for the dignity, honor and reputation of individuals and permanent and decisive action against vice and all its manifestations."

2.- Prior censorship of local newspapers, as described

ED BY:

11652:ldc

ANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

3-24-76

TEL. EXT.

361

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY

POL:WSSmith **WBS**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

CHARGE: HMclWoodward **WBS**

78F98

[ in SITREP 4, is now in full operation. Sources at ]  
afternoon tabloid LA TARDE informed Embassy Press  
Officer that two items (neither of which was  
significant) had been removed by the censors from  
today's afternoon edition.

3.- Representatives of the foreign media were received  
at Military Headquarters around one PM local time by  
interim Junta Press Secretary, Navy Captain Jorge Luis  
Arigotti. He outlined what the Junta's policy would  
be toward the foreign media. He referred to this  
"contact" (as opposed to press conference) with the  
foreign media and stated that "the only official  
information is contained in the Junta communiques."  
When asked if this meant that foreign journalists  
would not be permitted to transmit anything but the  
official communiques, Arigotti said: "you foreign  
journalists have certain requirements for your work  
and we hope you will exercise them professionally."  
Arigotti asked them not to "distort" the news and  
requested "collaboration when reporting matters other  
than material contained in the communiques." This  
was taken to imply that the Junta would not bother  
them as long as they don't publish anything outlandish.  
Who decides what is outlandish is not clear at this  
[ time. ]

UNCLASSIFIED

4.- While radio and television continue to be occupied by the armed forces and are broadcasting only Junta communiques and music, foreign newsmen still have complete access to international communications facilities.

5.- COMMENT: This first go round with the media has gone fairly well for the Junta. They obviously want to ~~carefully~~ manage their image with the media/and they appear to be well organized. The crunch will come when the Junta makes mistakes (which are inevitable) and the international media report and analyze them. Another problem area may be the division of authority between the Navy (directly responsible for the media) and the more dominant Army. Before their ~~meeting~~ meeting at Military Headquarters, foreign newsmen were kept waiting outside on the steps for more than ninety minutes. The meeting had been set up by the Navy but the newsmen couldn't get by the army guards at the door.

  
WOODWARD

 UNCLASSIFIED

Classification